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A SHORT STATEMENT  
OF  
THE ADVANTAGES  
OF  
University Consolidation;  
TO WHICH IS APPENDED  
THE CONSTITUTION  
OF  
The Society for Promoting University Consolidation.

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## INTRODUCTORY.

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The Society of whose views this statement is the official presentation, owes its origin to the conviction on the part of its members that the present condition of higher education in this country is unsatisfactory, that the number of institutions possessing University Charters and endeavoring to do collegiate work, is greater than the country can afford to support, that whether we consider the money available for the purpose of higher education, the demand for advanced literary culture and scientific training, the number of young men who should be attending collegiate institutions, or the number of thoroughly skilled and competent professors, there is not room in a country having a population of only a few hundred thousand souls for half a dozen universities. Even with the liberal, not to say extravagant appropriations made by the Legislature during the past five years, the condition of collegiate instruction was far from satisfactory, and the work was conducted in a manner that involved a tremendous waste of money. The \$13,200 granted by the Legislature

during each of those five years would have been sufficient to support a staff of six or seven professors at excellent salaries, each teaching a special department of science or literature and collectively competent to impart all the instruction in their several subjects for which there is in this Province any requirement or demand. Divided among the half dozen institutions that claimed the support of the people, the influence of the grant, large as it was, in the improvement of the quality of instruction imparted was hardly appreciable.

The withdrawal of the grant, as resolved upon by the Legislature last winter, in accordance with the terms of the Statute of 1876, coupled with the practical abolition of the University of Halifax, naturally directed the attention of all persons interested in the subject of higher education to the necessity of doing something to place the matter upon a more satisfactory basis; and, accordingly, a requisition was addressed to the officers of the several Alumni Associations asking for a conference for the purpose of discussing the advisability and feasibility of University Consolidation. This requisition was signed by nearly one hundred Alumni, representing most, if not all, of our provincial colleges, and the expressions of opinion that it evoked were such as to encourage the belief that the

heaven of conviction in favor of University Consolidation was strongly working even in places where there was least apparent reason to hope for indications of its presence. Resolutions in favor of a conference, supported by arguments in favor of Consolidation, were passed unanimously by the Alumni of Dalhousie, and narrowly escaped being carried by majorities at Acadia, Mount Allison and Kings College; and it is not too much to say that in every instance the effect of the vote in favor of isolation, was more than neutralized by the discussion of the question, and by the very obvious and palpable preponderance of the arguments in favor of Consolidation.

Since the question was thus broached by the Alumni Societies, it has been the subject of somewhat lively discussions elsewhere, and the friends of Consolidation, considering that their opponents had organizations for the perpetuation of the present system ready to their hands, concluded that it was their duty to themselves and to the people of this Province, to arrange for the organization of the opinion in favor of improvement. That such a public opinion exists and is rapidly gathering strength they have had abundant evidence, and one of the objects of their society is to afford that opinion the opportunity of becoming solidified and finding effective expression.



The necessity for such an organization, and for the improved arrangement that it contemplates, must be clearly apparent. To place our various collegiate institutions in the position in which they stood before the withdrawal of the public grants, endowments must be raised amounting in the aggregate to about \$260,000. There may be some friends of the existing system sanguine enough to anticipate that the interest in collegiate education and the zeal of the people for higher learning will prove strong enough to stand the strain of this enormous assessment. Should their anticipations prove to be well grounded the securing of this amount of money will only place our institutions in as good a position financially as they held previous to the withdrawal of the grants. It will not enable a single one of them to add a professor to its staff, a book to its library or a piece of apparatus to its laboratory. The confessedly inadequate equipment of our colleges in these respects must continue, even after their constituencies have submitted to the strain necessary to secure the proposed endowments. Under these circumstances the argument for consolidation presented in the annexed statement seems unanswerable.

HALIFAX, AUGUST, 1881.

A SHORT STATEMENT OF THE ADVANTAGES

OF

UNIVERSITY CONSOLIDATION.

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THE students of a central University would be more numerous than those of any one of our existing colleges.

1. It would follow that one important form of collegiate training—contact and intercourse with fellow-students—would have a much higher development at such a university than at our small colleges. The intimate association of the young men of the whole Province would tend to widen their minds and free them from the prejudices consequent upon association in small societies.

2. Increased numbers would mean a more vigorous, intellectual life, exhibiting itself in a stronger interest in literary, philosophical and oratorical societies of all kinds, which, in our small colleges, lack sufficient support.

3. The greater competition which would result from greater numbers must tend to foster industry and encourage work. The greater enthusiasm felt by the professor in the instruction of larger classes, must have the same tendency. The stimulating power of the teacher and the receptivity of the pupil would thus alike be increased.

4. The congregation of all students in one College would remove the temptation now too often yielded to by college authorities, to admit as undergraduates boys who ought to be still at school, and to send out as graduates men who have not proved themselves worthy of a University degree. A college must have students to teach. If a sufficient number cannot be obtained who are fit to do real university work, the college is forced to make its entrance test low, and a great part of its work becomes really school work. A central college with its large influx of students could readily afford to make its entrance examinations more difficult, and thereby to raise the standard of higher education.

5. The present low entrance examinations encourage boys to leave the High Schools prematurely, and to enter our colleges. Not only is the college work lowered, therefore, but our High Schools are drained of their pupils and thereby weakened. Consolidation would, by raising the college matriculation tests, increase the number of pupils in the High Schools and consequently strengthen them.

6. Increase in the value of degrees would be an immediate consequence of the elevation of the standard of university work. It is impossible to appraise the degrees of our colleges. They are consequently of little practical worth, and, among the knowing, are generally despised. A central University, which would be compelled by public opinion to make the character of its tests known, and whose work would be on a higher level than the work of our existing colleges,

would give a degree which might be of real value as an indication of knowledge and mental training.

The Central College would be provided with a larger body of Professors, proportioned to the number of colleges uniting and the amount of its endowments that each would be able to contribute. If we suppose that only the professors of even the four Protestant colleges, who are not engaged in teaching theology, should be sent up to a central University, and that to each professor should be allotted one of the subjects which he at present teaches, the University would have two professors in Greek, Latin and Mathematics respectively, and one professor in each of the following departments, viz:—French, German, English Literature, Mental Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, Political Science, History, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Geology, Biology, and Mining. The professoriate of a central college would be distinguished from that of the existing colleges, therefore, both in respect to number and to specialization of subjects.

7. That Professors would be able to restrict their attention to one department of study means that their knowledge of their subjects would become far more thorough than is possible under the present system, which requires one man to teach in some cases four subjects, in many three or two, and in but few only one.

8. The time at the disposal of professors for studying the educational characteristics of their subjects, and the best modes of teaching them, would result in their becoming better teachers.

9. The devotion of the whole time of a professor to one subject would enable him to give extensive and thorough courses of lectures. It would be possible to have in all departments both elementary and advanced courses, and in those in which it might be advisable, both general and technical courses.

10. At present a student can enjoy the tuition of the few professors only who teach at the college he may be attending. In a central college every student might enjoy the tuition of every professor in the Province. A much greater variety of courses of study would therefore be open to him. Liberal education may be obtained by any one of a great many courses. Which should be adopted by any student must be determined by his tastes and powers, or by his pre-determined vocation in life. In a central college arrangements could readily be made whereby a student might study a large number of subjects in an elementary manner, as is for the most part our custom at present, or a smaller number of subjects to greater depth. The curriculum might in fact be made so elastic as to be suited to the tastes, powers and prospects of all students.

11. In subjects such as Classics and Mathematics, in some departments of which drill or individual attention to students is particularly necessary, these ends would be better secured by a given number of professors in a central University than in the present small colleges.

12. Specialization of subject would enable us

both to obtain and to retain the services of professors who are experts in special departments. Such men are generally unwilling to undertake to teach any other departments than those in which they are specially interested. In fact, in the present state of science there are few men who are thoroughly versed in more than one department.

13. Consolidation of our colleges would render accessible to all our students the libraries of all our colleges. None of them are very good; some are very poor,—all together would be far better than any one. It would moreover enable us to add to them with far greater rapidity than we now can. In our present state we must purchase six copies of a work in order that the students of all our colleges may have access to it. Consolidation of two, three, or four of our colleges would enable us to add to the books accessible to all our students at twice, thrice, or four times our present rate.

14. Consolidation would enable us, in time, to build up laboratories such as isolated we cannot hope to obtain, while it would at once enable all our students to use the best we now have. It would also increase, as in the case of libraries, the rate at which we can add to our stock of apparatus. Scientific laboratories and museums such as are necessary to the education of men who are to be engaged in the development of a country like ours, cost large sums of money. That we should obtain the necessary funds to have them at all of our colleges is quite impossible. A concentration

of our forces in one college is the only means by which they can be obtained.

15. The effect which would be produced on our professors by the specialization of their subjects, the bracing atmosphere of a large University, and the facilities for work which would be afforded by enlarged libraries and properly equipped laboratories and museums, would be altogether beneficial. Under our present system we do all we can to make them mere retailers of knowledge. In a central college they would have every encouragement to become centres of literary progress and originators in scientific research ; and the intellectual activity and inventive power of their students would be stimulated by contact with living working men.

16. Consolidation would increase the efficiency of the Medical School, which, through lack of endowments and laboratory appliances, works at present under great disadvantages. It would naturally become a Faculty of the central University, and would thus be provided at once with chairs of Chemistry, Botany and Zoölogy, and ultimately with well equipped laboratories of all kinds ; while as a part of the University in which all our people would be interested, its chairs might in time be endowed.

17. Consolidation would facilitate the foundation of a Law School. As a Faculty of the University it would enjoy both the services of the Professors of History and Political Science, and a share of the benefactions of the possessors of wealth and public spirit.

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18. Consolidation would render possible the foundation of Schools of Applied Science. By providing for the thorough education of our young men in farming, mining and engineering, an impetus would be given to the development of our resources such as the country has never felt before. Men cannot farm, mine, or manufacture without knowing how; and in these days of active competition they cannot know how without having enjoyed the advantages of scientific education.

An efficient School of Agriculture, Mining and Engineering, would require thorough teaching in the following departments:—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, (including Metallurgy), Biology, Geology and Mineralogy, Engineering and Drawing, Mining and Agriculture. It is evident that no one of our colleges has any prospect of ever being able to endow these chairs. Certainly none of them can do so now. Inter-collegiate jealousy prevents any concentration of effort for this purpose on any one college, and the public treasury is not so well supplied as to permit of the foundation of special technological schools. Consolidation would enable us to establish such schools at once. A central college would already be provided with all the necessary chairs except Agriculture; and as the union of the colleges would have annihilated sectarian jealousy in educational matters, no difficulty would be experienced in raising an endowment for this department. The Province would thus gain a kind of education which would be an inestimable boon. Any



one who knows how our farms and mines are worked, and with what scanty knowledge our artisans are provided, must recognize at once the necessity of educating our young men so that they may be able to abandon haphazard methods and rules of thumb, and to do their work with intelligence and skill.

19. Consolidation of our colleges would improve the theological education of the Province, by relieving the churches of the burthen of providing literary and philosophical training, and enabling them to devote all their energy to the support and improvement of their Divinity schools. In more quiet times one or two professors may have been sufficient to prepare the clergyman for his work; now, however, when one who has the cure of souls must be ready to meet the attacks of numberless assailants, it is of vast consequence that the churches should give the training schools of the clergy the utmost possible strength. It may be noted here that consolidation would not interfere in the least with the religious and moral education furnished by colleges within whose walls students would reside. Such education is given through the agency of special instruction in religious knowledge, of the discipline of collegiate rules, and of the personal intercourse between Students and the Fellows or other officers of the College. Consolidation requires simply that our Professors of literary, philosophical and technical subjects, should form the Faculty of the University, and lecture in one place. Around this University colleges of residence might be founded by

any denominations whatever, and the Fellows of such colleges could provide such religious and moral education as might be considered advisable. The college of residence of any denomination might be combined with its Divinity School, in which case all the students of that denomination might reside together under the care of the professors of its Divinity.

20. The governing body of the Central College will undoubtedly be composed of the leading members of the different denominations which may agree to consolidate their colleges. The faculty of the Central College will be selected from the faculties of the existing colleges. In these facts the public have a guarantee that the Central College will command the perfect confidence of the Christian people of the Province.

21. Consolidation would encourage our wealthy men to endow the higher education in an adequate manner. At present, possible donors are discouraged, for the colleges are so small that their benefactors can influence the lives of but few men, so numerous that in giving funds to one college they are likely but rendering possible at one place a kind of education already provided in another, and so weak that they have no assurance of the permanence of the college which they might feel inclined to endow. Consolidation would ensure the enjoyment of the fruit of their munificence by the youth of the province, would enable every donation to be applied to the satisfaction of an educational want felt by all, and would furnish a permanent temple in which men might build for themselves imperishable monuments.

22. It would result from the concentration of interest thus produced that the salaries of Professors might ultimately be raised to an amount which would induce men of the first rank to occupy our Professorships.

23. Consolidation would result in a strong attachment on the part of graduates towards their Alma Mater, and consequently to enthusiasm and liberality in her support. The educational facilities provided by the present colleges are far inferior to those of other countries. Young men find that the education furnished by our colleges is not what it ought to be. They are forced to go abroad for the study of law, engineering, mining and agriculture, and this necessity restricts complete education in these departments to the wealthy. It is not wonderful that the alumni of the various colleges shew little zeal in their support. If they recognised as their Alma Mater a University which had provided them with the educational facilities possessed by the youth of other lands, they would love her for what she had done for them and cherish her for what she would do for their sons.

24. It is worthy of mention that a policy which would give the Province thorough education in all departments would tend to retain for the Provinces the services of her most promising men, who under the present system, being forced to go abroad for training in special subjects, and being attracted by the prospects offered by the countries in which they are educated, in many cases never return.

25. Consolidation is the only means of raising the standard of Nova Scotian education to that of the education of the Upper Provinces. Nova Scotia is now a part of a great commonwealth whose different provinces are being brought daily into more active competition with one another. There can be no inter-provincial protection. Our farmers must compete with the farmers of the West; our miners with the miners of Lake Superior; our manufacturers with the manufacturers of Ontario and Quebec, and our politicians must meet on the floor of the House of Commons the politicians of the other Provinces. Whether or not Nova Scotia is to hold her own in these varied forms of competition must depend greatly upon the education which we offer to our young men. The Upper Provinces possess comparatively well endowed Universities and Schools of Applied Science. The Maritime Provinces have only small, weak, ill-endowed colleges. So far as the potent factor of education is concerned, therefore, we have made success easy for our competitors. We can put our young men on an equal footing with those of the Upper Provinces only by the establishment of a well-equipped University, and such a University can be established only by the policy of Consolidation.

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## CONSTITUTION.

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ART I. This Association shall be called the Association for promoting University Consolidation.

ART II. The object of this Association shall be the consolidation of the colleges at present supported by the people of Nova Scotia.

ART III. Any person who approves of the object of this Association shall be eligible for membership and shall become a member upon signing this constitution.

ART IV. The expenses of this Association shall be defrayed by voluntary contribution.

ART. V.—*Sec. 1.* The officers of this Association shall be a President, seven Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries and a Treasurer.

*Sec. 2.* The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers and six others, being members of this Association. The Executive Committee shall have power to add at any time to their numbers as many of the members of the Association as they may see fit. Five members of their Committee shall constitute a *quorum*.

*Sec. 3.* The officers and other members of the Executive Committee shall be elected annually at a General Meeting of the Association.

*Sec. 4.* The Executive Committee shall have power to fill any offices which may at any time become vacant.

ART. VI. A General Meeting of this Association shall be held at Halifax once a year, in the last week of December. Special meetings of the Association may be called by the Executive Committee at any time, and must be called by said Committee on the requisition of twelve members of the Association. At least ten days' notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Association and of the object of special meetings must be given by advertisement.

ART VII.—*Sec. 1.* The Executive Committee shall have full power to take any action whatever, in furtherance of the object of this Association and consistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

*Sec. 2.* The Committee shall report annually to the Association at its General Meeting in December.

*Sec. 3.* The Committee may at any time be compelled to report to the Association at a special meeting on the requisition to that effect signed by at least twelve members of the Association.

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